

From: Gage, Taylor

Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2016 4:06 PM

To: Gage, Taylor

Cc: Maher, Eric

Subject: Media Release: Gov. Ricketts, Education Department Recognize 21 Nebraska High School Students for Top ACT and SAT Scores



Governor Pete Ricketts

Growing Nebraska for the Next Generation

For Immediate Release:
4:05PM CT on May 12, 2016

Media Contacts:

Taylor Gage, Governor's Office, 402-471-1970

Betty VanDeventer, Education Department, 402-471-4537

Media Release:

**Gov. Ricketts, Education Department
Recognize 21 Nebraska High School Students
for Top ACT and SAT Scores**

Photos [here](#).

LINCOLN – Today, Governor Pete Ricketts and the Nebraska Department of Education recognized 21 Nebraska high school students for their academic achievement in earning top scores of 36 on the ACT or a 2400 on the SAT college admissions

exam. Recognition ceremonies were held at Pius X High School in Lincoln and Creighton Preparatory High School in Omaha.

“Earning a top score on the ACT or SAT exam is a significant accomplishment that only comes through discipline, study, and hard work,” said Governor Ricketts. “Students from Gering to Omaha achieved the highest level of academic excellence on these college entrance exams. Parents, teachers, and friends can be proud of their outstanding achievement. Wherever your college plans may take you, I hope you will continue to make Nebraska your home as you start your careers and raise a family.”

The Governor was joined by Nebraska’s Commissioner of Education Matt Blomstedt at the Omaha event and the Deputy Commissioner of Education Deborah Frison at the Lincoln ceremony honoring Nebraska’s graduating seniors earning the highest possible composite scores on the exams. Students were presented with certificates signed by the Governor and Education Commissioner recognizing their “achievement in academic excellence.”

“Congratulations to the 21 Nebraska students who achieved the top score on their ACT or SAT this year,” said Education Commissioner Matt Blomstedt. “Their test scores represent an outstanding level of achievement and academic excellence. Their parents and teachers are proud of their work, and their commitment to academic excellence is an inspiration to other students.”

“As a former high school principal, I know the pride Nebraska teachers and administrators feel when their students reach the pinnacle of academic success,” said Deputy Education Commissioner Deborah Frison. “I applaud each of you and your dedication to academic excellence as well as your parents and teachers who supported you over the years.”

Graduating top scoring ACT students include:

- Claire Davis, Marian High School, Omaha
- Dylan Finley, Millard North High School, Omaha
- Rebecca Fitzgarrauld, Millard North High School, Omaha
- Benjamin Giebelhausen, Bennington Junior Senior High School, Bennington
- Shane Grode, Creighton Preparatory School, Omaha
- Hanna Hoffman, Lincoln High School, Lincoln
- Liam Kruse, Pius X High School, Lincoln
- Nathan Lachner, Papillion-La Vista South High School, Papillion
- Bridget Mizener, Westside High School, Omaha
- Grant Moles, Johnson County Central High School, Tecumseh
- Don Nguyen, Creighton Preparatory School, Omaha
- Collin Potts, Gering High School, Gering
- Aaron Salzman, Creighton Preparatory School, Omaha
- Christian Schleif, Osceola Junior Senior High School, Osceola
- Nathan Singh, Creighton Preparatory School, Omaha
- Michael Svolos, Central High School, Omaha
- Independence Talken, Pius X High School, Lincoln
- Raymond Thai, Millard North High School, Omaha
- Lauren Vana, Elkhorn South High School, Elkhorn
- Edward Yuan, Millard South High School, Omaha

One student, Julia Fiksinski of Brownell-Talbot School in Omaha achieved a perfect score on the SAT.